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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/538,287	11/28/2005	Aki Vanhatalo	915-001.059 (35977-US-PCT)	9403
73658 Nokia, Inc. 6021 Connection Drive, MS 2-5-520 Irving, TX 75039	7590 05/27/2009		EXAMINER CASCA, FRED A	
			ART UNIT 2617	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 05/27/2009	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/538,287

Applicant(s)

VANHATALO, AKI

Examiner

FRED A. CASCA

Art Unit

2617

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 March 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14, 16 and 17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14, 16 and 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed 09 March 2009 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pelaez et al (US 2003/0147373) in view of Natsuno (US 2003/0092455 A1).

Referring to claim 1, Pelaez discloses a method (abstract and figure 1) comprising:

making a request in a device for establishing a connection with a receiver (Fig. 3 step 300, “a call is received from a user of a first device to a user of a second device”),

as a response to a failed attempt for establishing the connection (Fig. 3 step 302), the device starting a multimedia messaging service (figure 3 step 308, and paragraph 5, “send a

multimedia mail message”) and activating a recording function of a sound clip (figure 3 step 310 and paragraphs 5 and 12, note that the multimedia inherently has sound),

recording a voice message as a sound clip of a multimedia message in a volatile random access memory of the device (Fig. 3 step 310, and par. 26, lines 1-3),

and transmitting the created multimedia message to the receiver (paragraph 26, lines 5-14).

Pelaez does not specifically disclose that the connection is with an electronic receiver, and the multimedia actions starts automatically, as claimed.

Natsuno discloses detecting a failed attempt for establishing a connection with a device and automatically sending an message in response to that failed attempt (paragraph 88 and figure 8, “message of apology by an automatic voice”, “sending an error voice message”).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the method of Pelaez in the format claimed by applicant by incorporating the teachings of Natsuno, for the purpose of providing convenience to users, saving time and using bandwidth efficiently, and thus providing an efficient messaging system.

Referring to claim 2, the combination of Pelaez/Natsumo disclose the method of claim 1 and further disclose an identifier (inherent) in the multimedia message by which the message can be identified as claimed by applicant (Natsumo, Fig. 8 and Par. 88).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the method of Pelaez in the format claimed by applicant for the purpose of providing an efficient messaging system.

Referring to claim 3, the combinations of Pelacz/Natsumo disclose the method of claim 1 and further disclose in addition to the sound clip, one or a combination of the following is attached in the multimedia message: text, picture, and video image (Pelacz, paragraphs 12 and 14, "audio, voice, video," "text").

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the method of Pelacz in the format claimed by applicant for the purpose of providing an efficient messaging system.

Referring to claim 4, the combinations of Pelacz/Natsumo disclose the method of claim 1, and further disclose the step of automatically transmitting the message containing the sound clip to the receiver (Palacz, Fig. 3, and Natsumo, Fig. 8).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the method of Pelacz in the format claimed by applicant for the purpose of providing an efficient messaging system.

Referring to claim 5, the combinations of Pelacz/Natsumo disclose the method of claim 1, and further disclose the step of transmitting to the receiver as a response to confirming the message sending function as claimed (Palacz, Fig. 3, and Natsumo, Fig. 8. Also see the rejection of claim 1).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the method of Pelaez in the format claimed by applicant for the purpose of providing an efficient messaging system.

Referring to claim 6, the combinations of Pelaez/Natsumo disclose the method of claim 1, and inherently disclose the message transmitted is the number to which the original request for connection is made (Pelaez, Fig. 3, and Natsumo, Fig. 8. Also see the rejection of claim 1).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the method of Pelaez in the format claimed by applicant for the purpose of providing an efficient messaging system.

4. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pelaez et al (US 2003/0147373) in view of Natsumo (US 2003/0092455 A1), and further in view of well known prior art (MPEP 2144.03).

Referring to claim 7, the combinations of Pelaez/Natsumo disclose the method of claim 1.

The combination is silent on message being transmitted to the voice mail box of the number to which the original request for connection was made.

The examiner takes official notice of the fact that transmitting voice or multimedia signals to the voice mail box of a user is well known in the art.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the combination as claimed, for the purpose of providing convenience to users, saving time and using bandwidth efficiently, and thus providing an efficient messaging system.

Referring to claims 8-14 and 16-17, claims 8-14 and 16-17 are rejected for the same arguments/reasons that were made in the rejection of claims 1-7 above.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-14 and 16-17 have been considered but they are moot in view of new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

References Skinner (US 6529737) and Joong (US 5937355) disclose systems and methods of automatically sending voice message in response to connection failures.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fred A. Casca whose telephone number is (571) 272-7918. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9 to 5.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Harper, can be reached at (571) 272-7605. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/VINCENT P. HARPER/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2617